

IN THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Applicant: **DIMARCO, Chrysanne et al.**

Serial No.: **PCT/CA98/00771**

Title: **A Method And Apparatus For Authoring
Of Customizable Multimedia Documents**

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International Preliminary Examination Authority
European Patent Office
Erhardstrasse 27
D-80331 Munich
Germany

Attention: G. Barraco, Examiner

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the First Written Opinion dated May 21, 1999.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1 to 12 lack inventive step in view of reference D1: C. Dimarco et al.: "The automated generation of Web documents that are tailored for the reader".

The Examiner has indicated that the customization of documents for different audiences and purposes is known in the art as indicated and implementing such a method in an object oriented approach is obvious.

The Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's statements and the D1 reference. Applicant respectfully believes that the Examiner's grounds for rejecting the claims are unfounded, particularly in light of the following comments.

The present invention defines a computer system and method for generating custom versions of a master document. The master document is defined by a data file including a data structure which describes the content of the master document, a document class library which contains generic descriptions for the various versions of the document, a parser which reads both the data file and the document class library to create executable instances of the document and a selection engine which uses purpose parameters to generate custom versions

of the document from the various instances of the executable document as generally defined in independent claims 1 and 11.

On the contrary the D1 reference describes a system for customizing documents wherein the master document is a script file that has to be run each time the purpose parameters are changed. There is no hint of suggestion in D1 of having a document class library containing generic descriptions. In D1, the data file which is the master document is reread whenever new purpose parameters are provided by the user. There is no concept of instantiation in D1 as required and defined in the claims of the present invention.

Furthermore in D1 there is no suggestion of a selection engine, a parser or an object orientated class library. The process of instantiation is important in the present invention in that it provides a "program" that holds its state which is then subsequently processed by a selection engine for producing the customized document in response to the user purpose parameters. On the other hand, in D1, the master document is a script file that has to be run each time the purpose parameters are changed. Thus there is no disclosure of a generic master document which is content independent. The D1 reference defines merely instances of a master document which is content dependent.

The Examiner has indicated that it is "obvious, when implementing the program design of such methods, to adopt the object or approach according to now a days trends". The Applicant has carefully reviewed the D1 reference and can find no suggestion or indication of adopting an object orientated approach to create customized documents based on the data file of D1. The Examiner has also failed to provide any other indication of the state of the art regarding object oriented approaches with regard to customized document generation. Thus it is believed that the Examiner's objection is not well founded and is merely the result of hindsight analysis.

For the above reasons it is believed that the objections to independent claims 1 and 11 are overcome and consequently the objections to the dependent claims 2 to 10 and 12 are also overcome.

Reconsideration of the claims on their merits is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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